

*Cook (A. A.)*

ADDRESS

BEFORE THE

Massachusetts Dental Society,

AT ITS

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1869.

*34.*

BY DR. A. A. COOK.

BOSTON :

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.

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BY DR. A. A. COOK.  
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CHAS. H. BROWN  
1870246  
Washington

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## A D D R E S S .

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MR. PRESIDENT, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE MASSACHUSETTS  
DENTAL SOCIETY :

STANDING in such presence, one may well implore some  
power above us.

“Some Power guide my pen,  
While I draw a man  
On earth devoted ” to the teeth.

Such, then, is the text ; and the coming man of the dental  
profession shall be the theme.

*Profession* is the word used ; for I take it, that ours is no  
longer to be considered merely a calling. It has attained  
superior dignity, and should be numbered among the learned  
professions.

“A man on earth devoted to teeth.” Of course a dentist  
should be a man ; in more senses than one ; in all things a  
man. He should be something more than the platonic type,  
that is, a biped without feathers, and minus teeth. Of course  
he will have eyes as a man, ears as a man, passions as a  
man, blood as a man, intellect as a man, and all other char-  
acteristics of the genus homo.

I doubt that woman can hope to excel in the practice of  
the dental art ; and yet I am told that she emulates those  
who are considered the best of practitioners. When I say  
*man*, then let it be understood that it is conceded that effemi-  
nate masculinity shall stand on a par with masculine effemi-  
nacy. Gallantry demands, and the profession should accede,  
that, other things being equal, she shall not be proscribed.  
It may be doubted whether the taste of the fair ones will to  
any extent lead them to such practice. The dentist should

be a man of nerve, as he is a man of blood, in more senses than one. Woman's finer nature shrinks from such work as the dentist must do at times, though, perchance, there be exceptions; and, perchance, there shall be some rivalry of the sexes in the dental line, as there now is in the medical world. If this shall be, as the suffrage question seems to foreshadow a good deal, let it come. Woman should stand upon her merits here, as in all things; and if she can do as good a thing in the laboratory, or over the dental chair as her bosom lord, give her a chance, and bid her god-speed, so that she does good work. A woman devoted to teeth may yet be no novelty. Possibly the profession will suffer no detriment if the thing shall become common. Let her follow her own bent and taste, as she has such right. In this democratic age, people will have their choice in matters of teeth, as in a thousand other things; and if the patient prefer the soft and gentle manipulation of the fair one to the rough treatment of the unfeeling practitioner, it must be endured as of the inevitable. It has been said, "The learned professions have their masculine and feminine aspects. In medicine, there is a broad and well-marked department, where the feminine qualities of patience, sympathy, tenderness, tact, perception, nicety of touch and manipulation, administrative care and sensibility, can render admirable service, — departments which fairly belong to women."

Something more than these qualities is needed to make the dentist. There must be something superadded. Courage that dares the heroic strength of arm and nerve, nicety of mechanical manipulation, power of physical endurance, — these are not non-essentials in the department. Minerva may be made of lips of tenderness and love, and have all the distinctive qualities of her finer nature, and yet be wanting in essentials. Her æsthetic taste, her gentleness, her tenderness, might one and all be of value. It were well our

profession manifested more such qualities. The question is, does her nature, all feminine as is the supposed case, qualify her to amputate a limb, or to extract a molar; or will that, or any other feminine quality, enable her to restore a tooth to soundness, to its due form, and to golden beauty? Can she be expected to do these things as well as a Plato might? All platonists cannot hope to become experts in dental specialty. Many who have started in this direction have abandoned their once choice for some other calling better adapted to their capabilities. Others there are who would do well by doing likewise.

Equal rights to equal fitness, surely. There should be adaptation of the person to the profession, whatever be the nationality or the sex. Something of taste and tact; something of skill, and sense, and strength, of natural aptness, is essential to become an expert in the dental profession. I know of no one word that expresses the one essential thing to the success of the dentist better than the word *gumption*. Defining it, I should say it means in practice a *quick* perception — I had almost said *intuitive* — of the nature of the case, comprehending the thing to be done, as well as the best method of doing the best thing, with skill and daring to do it. As a quality, it is innate, if it exist at all. Have you never seen men learned, intelligent, respectable in the different professions, who were lacking in this grace? They have not been able to meet the demands upon them for the want of *gumption*. One must have the root of the matter in him, or he might about as well give up before he start. The greatest of all is *gumption*. And the kind needed is different from that required to knead bread, or to deal out pills aright, or to lend a hand in obstetric practice. A different sort of skill is required to deliver a venomed stang, or to restore to due form the carious tooth with solid burnished gold.

The dentist ought to be a *scientist*; and the coming man will be, as some are. There is a sense in which all science is one, as truth is one; and there can be no conflict of scientific truth. What is true in one department will not be at variance with aught in another; and if diversity appear, such opposition is only in the seeming. There can be no real contrariety. Some thought and study may be requisite to arrive at the true, and distinguish it from 'science falsely so called.' Of false science beware. It is a misnomer to call aught science that is false and uncertain; and the same is true in calling one a man of science who is ignorant of the first principles of his calling, or of his profession. A mere smattering of knowledge in a particular profession does not make the scientific man; and yet even thus much is better than has been at times. To be a scientific dentist, what is it? It at least embraces a knowledge of that department of science that appertains to dentistry, and to its proper practice. It may not include a general knowledge of universal science. Perchance one may be a little at fault in general intelligence, and still be a scientific dentist, perfectly at home in his special department. First of all, he should seek to become an expert, to excel in his chosen specialty; and as means to this end, he should know all, if possible, that comes within the scope of dental science. At least, he ought to push things to the utmost bounds of the known, the already discovered, and come to comprehend there is something beyond. He ought to be able to call things by their right names; to understand dental nomenclature so far as there is such; and it would be well, in the absence of the word needed at times, he should be able to coin the right one. The profession has not conceded to any one the right to do its verbal coining. Our nomenclature is felt to be imperfect; but, imperfect as it is, our scientific man should know the sense of the word he uses, if so be he



be deficient in the sense and meaning that others attach to it, using the same word. He need not seek to perfect himself in dental nomenclature merely to astonish his patrons with the right use even of learned words of high seeming, calculated to astonish, if not captivate, the patron, or (professionally speaking) the *patient*. Commonly, it is better to say bone than dentine; *nerve* than *dental pulp*; better say *teeth* than *odontologia*. Better use terms surely understood alike by speaker and hearer than doubtful ones of thundering sound, and learned length, and pompous egotism.

Our man should be able to dissect a tooth, as well as to name, and give its locality from its name. He ought to be able to tell something of its development; something of its elements of structure; something of its connection with the nervous system, as well as of its relations to the organism in general; something of its worth for incision or for mastication, preparing nutriment for digestion, and thus conducing to the healthful development of the whole man.

If he be unable to define the exact lines that distinguish and divide between dental and medical science, let him pass to the regions beyond. He shall be none the less a dentist, for all he shall come to know of medicine. If an M. D., be supplemented by D. D. S., or the order be reversed and the medical doctorate be joined to the dental, there certainly should be more of science in the man, and certainly none the less of a scientific practitioner and intelligent and skilful operator; none the less of art because of more science. He should ordinarily confine himself to the one in his practice, and not be dabbling in pills when dentals are his calling. And yet there are cases requiring a cathartic rather than the forceps; and he ought to have "Wisdom profitable to direct."

With a little dental science, the physician might at times find the source of disease, or of some ails in some diseased

dental; and perchance locate facial or other neuralgic pains in some tooth as the troubler. So perchance the dentist will be greatly benefited as his knowledge shall extend to the pathology of disease in general.

These two branches of science intertwine and commingle; so much so, that the studies and books of the one may well be and are the studies and authority of the other to a great extent. Anatomy, special and comparative, physiology, pathology, and whatever other ology appertains to "the house I live in," — all have relation and appertain to the science of health, if not to each alike to the same extent. A double diploma might be desirable, if one could be assured that a single one was always worthily granted, and was not beyond the real merit of such as flaunt it. A charlatan is but a charlatan, nothing more, though you cram his pocket with diplomas instead of pills. An *ass* is but a *Jack*, though he put on a lion's skin.

I shall not be misunderstood. I believe in diplomas. It may be every worthy practitioner should have one. What is to be reprobated is, that you cannot distinguish between the good and the vile, the scientific and the charlatan, from the fact one has his diploma duly authenticated. One with little or no science, skill or general knowledge cannot be made a scientific practitioner, though he flaunt triple diplomas. Granted, that the presumption should always be on the side of the diploma; that is, that it was worthily bestowed upon a worthy man, a ripe scholar, a *scientist* at least in his specialty; yet such are the facts known and read of all men, or may be, that one's faith is shaken in the abstract virtue of a diploma. We had rather know the virtue is in the man, back of his parchment; that "he is science," to use a cant phrase, independent of the voucher or indorser on the face or back of the parchment. Undervalue the diploma? Not at all! The complaint is, that it is too care-

lessly and indiscriminately bestowed. The standard is brought down to the stature or level of the man; and the man is not exalted to the height he should be because of this. The result is a double disparagement, involving the diploma and the man as much or more. Such granting of diploma is derogatory to science and detrimental to the profession. There should be emblazoned in every dental college for the guidance of the faculty in conferring the diploma, "See that you inflict no detriment to the republic," or to the profession, or to the individual. Lay hands suddenly on no man. Do not consecrate a novice!

Of course no body of men do this. And yet, strange to say, the thing is done at times, and cases do come under observation.

The diploma should ever be a warrant to the public of scientific knowledge at least, if not of professional skill. It ought to assure a tolerable practitioner, if not an expert, in practice and manipulation. Of course there will be degrees of excellence among the excellent. There may be excellence without the diploma as there may be bad and malpractice with it. Possibly he who shall come the nearest to our ideal of what a dentist should be may in fact be never honored by the degree. And yet such an one should have it, if it be of worth at all, that he may honor the thing and magnify his profession. One might honor the thing more than its bestowment would honor him. All the worthy should have it without discrimination of nationality or of sex. All honor to Harvard that can give a diploma to one of Africa's hue; and shame on any dental college that closes its doors to one because of ebony skin. It was a little amusing to hear a student of a dental school seeking a diploma, after having been long enough in practice to secure the boon by taking one course of lectures, say that he did not expect the course would make him any the better practitioner; but then he was glad he had

entered as he had had the conceit all taken out of him, and this too not half through the course. This conceit of his that he was minus conceit seemed laughable. Perhaps the full course finished the good work, but half through it did seem there was a moiety left. If indeed such was always the sure result of taking a course of lectures, and of securing the diploma, it were well that none should neglect. And this may be the tendency, as it should be. It is possible, however, that the conceited matriculant may become the more inflated because of his parchment, and so become disgusting with his airs.

“Oh, that some Power the gift would,” etc.

One trait of our ideal is that of modest worth. It is a gem of the first water. Without it, a diploma may be “As a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout.” It becomes a nuisance when used to cover ignorance, or doubtful practice; or to protect from the consequences of malpractice; or to give one respectability as a man or as a practitioner who has none in himself.

No one should think of entering the dental profession who cannot do it *con amore*; or at least has not a sufficient taste for it as to be likely to call it — so have I seen written — “My Beloved Profession.” If his whole heart is not in it at first, he should have a more than leaning towards it. This is the more excellent way to commence, and the sure way to eminence. Not merely as a means to a living, or for lucre’s sake should he take upon him the high honor of being a dentist. He ought to be impressed with the sense of the dignity of the profession, and of the worth of a tooth. He will hardly magnify his calling, honor himself, or advance the profession as he might and should do, if there be in him naught but what smacks of the personal and ends in ego.

It is his to alienate human suffering; to diminish the

number of the ills flesh is heir to; rather to prevent them, as well as guard humanity against suffering, at least in the line of his profession. And this is the high mission of dental science. Cure is well enough, and is to be sought after in the use of any specific that shall restore the sick man. Prevention, however, is better. The aim of medical science should be the prevention of disease; keeping the human organism as a whole in a normal, healthful condition; providing for such development of the physique as shall secure health, strength and longevity, — thus diminishing the totality of misery, and by so much and more adding to the sum of weal. The medical student, or practitioner has a limited and unworthy view of his calling whose only aim and practice is to cure the sick. His true mission and high calling is first of all to prevent the sickness, to have a healthful child at birth, and to keep in normal condition. He should be something more than a restorer of breaches, or a repairer of places to dwell in. It is well to build the walls, when once down from external foes or internal strife. It is better to preserve the citadel from attack, and keep the precious stones in position, each in beauty and strength. Shame on the man whose only aim is to remedy ruin accomplished rather than to prevent desolation. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." No gold can equal in worth, or substitute in value, the enamel and dentine of a priceless tooth. Much as the burnished gold, found often in these days in the dental arch of fortunate, or rather *unfortunate* patients, is admired as work of all praise, shining as so much jewelry, in better condition, service, and fineness than the bogus stuff, still one can but feel to say: What a pity! And this last may well predominate over all praise the filling may merit. Gazing at the golden tooth, one hardly knows which the more to admire, the properties of the metal, or the skill of the dentist to accomplish such results. Still



the golden has no glory by reason of that which excelleth. The normal is better than gold. The perfect tooth is "a thing of beauty," and should be "a joy forever." It is a pearl of great price. It is the perfection of beauty. How shall such beauty be developed and perpetuated? The dentist ought to answer such question. He should be able to do something in this direction. He ought to understand that Dame Nature cannot appropriate what she cannot assimilate; and that she cannot assimilate what is not. Starting with such knowledge, he should look after the embryo man in cases of anticipated maternity. If there is to be a perfect development of bones, a perfect denture, the material must be furnished to supply the osseous. Give the mother that is to be to understand the facts; that she has something to do as to the physique of such as open the womb: that though bread made of the finest of the wheat, bolted of the external shell to perfect whiteness, may be pleasant to look upon, and palatable, yet that such bolting robs the cereal of the very property essential to the formation of bones, and leaves her darling child minus the best of teeth, if not in the end *sans* teeth. For the good of the fœtus, she had better eat Graham. Nature demands the phosphate of the kernel as well as the starch. The coming man will know more, I hope, than the present, what dietetics best secure good enamel, super-bones, and the best of dentine; and will waive false modesty for the benefit of the future man. No woman is fit to be wife or mother, who will not adopt that regime of exercise or diet that enlightened science dictates as the best to secure the highest development of her own offspring.

There are yet certain features of the coming man that must be named to perfect the ideal. One is "largeness of heart."

There have been and are some large-hearted men in our

profession. None mention them but to praise, nor should any but in esteem. All are not of this type.

With all the science, skill and expertness of our coming man, he will not be a patentee of things that come within the scope of dental practice; or, if he be, he is not the ideal of our heart. There will yet be discoveries and inventions as important to dental science and practice as any that have been and are. Such is our hope. And he who shall add one, or revolutionize to the advancement of the profession shall be honored. The generation shall call him blessed. Let him not starve his brethren, seeking to fill his own maw. "No man liveth to himself," should be his motto. There is, I am told, one in the medical world whose genius has done much to advance medical science. He has, from his fruitful brain, originated many a surgical instrument of great value and use in the practice of surgery, as well as in other departments of the medical profession. On such inventions and improvements he has in instances taken out patents, thereby the better to name his own, or perhaps lest some unscrupulous interloper should steal his thunder, and seek to monopolize the thing for personal ends. Yet has he never peddled his inventions, or sold the right to use the patent. All of his professional brethren are gratuitously permitted to use one or all as they shall find occasion in their varied practice. Thus he aids the profession, and thus confers benefits on suffering humanity. And the benedictions of the profession rest upon him. All honor to the man whose genius has a heart, whose aim is not lucre alone! May we not hope that the time is at hand, shall we not think it now is, when the dental shall boast of equal largeness of heart as well as of genius as distinguished? A large-hearted man is our admiration. His worth, who can tell? A shame it is that every little petty improvement in the line of dental advance should come to be covered by a patent, and that, too,

in instances where the last step was but the normal result of the preceding, embodying no new principle, being simply a mode of applying the old: a little variation, it may be, in manipulation, or in the use of the thing. Such is the third patent that confronts the profession in the use of rubber. First is the *vulcanization* of rubber; second, *its use for dental purposes*, and third — I cannot say *last*, who knows what is to come? — the Folsom patent, so-called, claiming something new in the line of manipulation. Patentees who vend their patents in the medical profession are under the ban of the profession, and are read out as they should be. So might it be in the dental. Our coming man will not sell patents. If he should, let him retire outside the profession, and approach us as not of us. Of course, one can exercise the right of choice, as to being an honored member, or honorable. Our ideal is a man of honor. Are ye not all honorable men?

Our ideal is one of conscience, "a man devoted to teeth," conscientiously devoted. Of course, I speak not of devotion in a religious sense, though I take it a religious man is none the less a man, nor the less a dentist because of his religion. "A Christian is the highest style of man." If this be accepted, it will follow that one can hardly be the best style of a dentist without the elements at least of a moral, not to say Christian character. There is no profession or calling in which a scrupulous conscientiousness is more needed than in the dental practice. A case can hardly come within the scope of one's practice that does not have some demand on a good conscience. Many a time the patient cannot know at first that he is well served. It takes time to test our works: for which reason it is that some of the best dentists that have lived scarcely obtained their due reputation till they "shuffled off the mortal coil." Now, it may be their skill is recognized in their golden deeds, that



shine and endure as the golden streets they tread, as is hoped. They sought to do the best thing they could, and to perfect their manipulation and works as they found themselves wanting, even though they might have done inferior work, taking covert under the blissful ignorance of such as they assumed to serve. They were too scrupulously conscientious to thus impose on the credulity of the confiding patient. At least they were conscious of their aim to do the best, and thus render the due equivalent for the consideration asked and received. Such were a Harris, a Townsend, a Flagg, a Miller, and others who have passed on before. Such are names that shall be nameless now. Their praise can be more appropriately spoken when being dead they shall yet speak. These named were pure-minded if not Christian men, and acted conscientiously in their profession, thus adorning their chosen profession and themselves, exalting both. No doubt one can be a scrupulous practitioner whose character falls short of this highest type. Many there be of this conscientious type, to their praise be it spoken. They will not do a thing so mean as to merely stuff a tooth, passing it along as a filling; nor select a cavity involving no skill and minus gold, to the neglect or sacrifice of teeth that one of the least conscience would save. Men do show good conscience in such things, though not professedly Christians. A moiety of the article may be of some service in keeping one pure of malpractice, and sharp, and doubtful; and, besides, the patient may have a double interest in the matter, not the least being feeward. A little conscience in this direction is at times appreciated. May the term dentist never come to be regarded as the synonyme of extortion. What a marked disparity there is in this matter of fees! I once heard one eminent amongst us say: "I once filled a tooth for fifty cents, that I should now charge fifty dollars for the same, and I was conscientious then and

now." Quite a margin that, for conscience. A good man who was commended for his piety remarked he had no religion to boast of; and the best of us may well say as much of conscience. None too much; none to boast of; none at least to spare.

"Granted that you have got a fund of it,  
Be not shy of showing it;  
Wear it occasionally about,  
As men their go-to-meeting suit."

It can be shown without prating of it; worn without offensive ostentation; lived without cant; practised, as of one's own nature, without effort. "Of your own selves, judge ye what is right."

A man devoted to teeth ought to be a man "devoted to the skies." He ought to serve his God as well as his generation in the line of teeth. The ideal is one of conscience without cant; a man learned without rant. Virtue has been called "The mean between two extremes." The golden mean lies between boorishness and foppishness. A dentist should be neither a boor nor a fop. He should avoid covetousness as profligateness, walking in the way of liberality, given to hospitality and to whatsoever things are of good report and are calculated to exalt the profession to be justly called liberal.

Our preferred ideal is both a Nazarite and a Traskite. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink; nor will he benumb his senses by the use of narcotics. There is no mean in these things. "Touch not the unclean thing" is alike the rule of safety and cleanliness. Clean hands, a pure breath, pure language, a pure heart, should characterize our profession. All purity should be the dentist! Uncorrupt, uncorrupted, uncorrupting, — such is the true man; incapable alike of seducing or of being seduced from virtue. A lustful, lecherous practitioner is to be abominated, as one despises

Milton's toad whispering in the ear of innocence. Such had better seek some other calling congenial to deeds of darkness that dare not seek the light. With such an one, O my soul, be not thou united! What avails the best of dental skill, the most perfect workmanship, if all this be but the means one shall use to accomplish ruin? Goodness has its place in professional life. One had better be minus a little skill, and come short as to the highest possible perfection in operative dentistry than be bankrupt in moral virtue. It is sad to know that skill is at times shunned because of doubtful character. Distinguished professional reputation is not all that is needed by the dentist. Like Cæsar's wife, he should be above suspicion. Our ideal embraces moral excellence as well as professional ability. Of course the profession has had and has at present the best of men. It is such that elevate the profession. Character is needed as well as notoriety to give the right reputation to the successful dentist.

What shall not be expected, a generation coming, of the dental profession? One can hardly keep booked up these days in the advance of science in all directions. Things new and important, and of great value are being discovered and made known. Specialties that were are divided again into specialties, and each division foretokens further division; for it is found the field enlarges as due attention is bestowed upon any one specialty. No man can hope to keep himself fully informed of the progress of science in general, even though he take all knowledge as his province. One shall do well if he keep pace in the progress of his own chosen profession. In the line of the past, what have not been improvements made, and benefits conferred, and knowledge gained, advantaging dental science, and perfecting the profession? The forceps have taken the place of the turnkey, once quite universally used, barbarous as it was; mineral

teeth have substituted those made of bones; the adhesiveness of gold and the practical working of the same by the use of serrated pluggers, thus enabling the operator to restore the form of a carious tooth with gold, as solid as though it had been molten and poured into the cavity as into an ingot; the perfecting of foils in their manufacture to this end; the rubber dam, the better to secure such golden results; the use of vulcanite as a basis for artificial dentures; treatment of exposed nerves, so as to save an aching tooth once deemed doomed beyond repair; anaesthesia, born of the dental profession and nurtured by it; dental literature not to be scoffed at; dental colleges and associations,—all this and more may be looked upon as coming within the experience of members of this society. From this standpoint, what shall we not expect as to discovery, invention, progress, practice, in a word, *success*, within the generation following? The past becomes the pledge of the future. What has been, and is justifies the hope of the better and still better. Thought impregnating thought shall yet give birth, perchance, to something as wonderful and beneficial as aught that is. Nature's secrets are not all discovered, nor are her resources exhausted. However conversant and learned in one's specialty, there are limitations to knowledge in such province. There are a thousand things yet unknown to be sought out. Our patients often put to us questions the wisest of us cannot answer. What is the cause, the prime cause, of caries? Do you presume to tell? Want of cleanliness, is it? Teeth do decay notwithstanding the utmost cleanliness, in some cases. The secretions are bad, you will say. In what does their vileness consist? Is there no specific to render the secretions normal, healthful? Or is there no remedy to arrest the chemical action of vitiated secretions? May we not hope to beget or to restore healthful secretions? How is it that the fathers

having eaten sour grapes, the children's teeth are vitiated? How is it that one in a family has a good denture as has the sire, while a sister inherits a mother's tendency to toothlessness? Or how is it that the daughter gets a good denture from the father, and the son a frightfully bad one from the mother? Or how is it that both parents, having miserable dentures, the child has a tolerable one at least? Or, as is oftener the case, how is it that progenitors having first-class teeth, the children are deficient in good teeth? There is something of mystery about this hereditary, something to be learned. Grace, it is said, can reach hereditary depravity. Perchance hereditary rottenness of bones may be reached, and prevented. Admitting the fact of bad or good teeth in lineal descent, cannot something be done to give better results, to augment the good and prevent the evils that come in such line? Is the hereditary naught but stern fate? And must science submit, be reconciled to, nor hope to alleviate, the dire evil, being a dire necessity? Nay, something may be done in this direction. Grace can reach even total depravity. The relation of certain phosphates to the dentine, and their use in the perfection of the denture, in the development of first-class teeth at first, as well as in their preservation, shall come to be better understood. Possibly it is within the province of dental science to so exempt the future poet from the ills of rotten bones as that he shall not abuse his Muse in penning maledictions in rhyme, as:—

“A curse upon my venom'd stang;  
That shoots my tortured gums along,  
With gnawing vengeance!”

Of course it is not in the province of all science to entail physical immortality; but can it not be hoped that mortal man may be saved to some extent from the torments of aching teeth that Burns compares to perdition, to “the place



priests call hell?" Is it indeed a hopeless chimera this of prevention of rottenness entailed? Can nothing be done to secure a healthful, robust physique, free for a mortal life from scrofula and caries? Can nothing ever be learned as to how the bones do grow in the womb, as to the aliment required for their due perfection, as to the diet one should have, looking to maternity, the tendency of which shall be to secure a perfect denture, beautiful in development and enduring as life? Our coming man will know.

If not possible to reach the matter in such direction, how about vitiated secretions? Is there no means to prevent such, or to counteract? Must the sufferer endure, as best he can, the demolition of these fair forms of beauty as a necessity, because of the remediless, vileness of the secretions? Is there no specific for the abnormal so powerfully destructive of the dentals? This is only suggestive of the field of research yet before us. "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed."

As the domain of science shall be extended, specialties multiplying and being perfected, each in its sphere, aided by chemical analysis, the intelligent use of the microscope, by close and persistent observation, by sure, certain, enlightened experience, by scientific practice, may we not hope the dental is to reap largesses fully equal to the harvest already gathered? Is it too much to expect that tin-foil amalgams, so artificial, shall be supplanted by some discovery to take their place that shall equal gold for filling teeth? Such discovery would be more than the philosopher's stone to the race. It will be the pearl of great price. It remains that such desideratum be met. Our coming man may meet it, or at least partake of its advantages. He will hold fast the good that is, seeking the better, aiming for the best, perfecting himself in all things.



